



Foundation Insight for the Arts asks twenty artists “How far can you go?”

Foundation Insight in Paradera Park opened a new collection on Friday evening that will be on display through the month of February. The center of Avant Garde art in Aruba; Foundation Insight’s curator, Alida Martinez has challenged a gathering of Aruban and international artists to show “How far can you go?”

A mixture of mediums and techniques has resulted in a widely varied and interesting exposition, with a combination of male and female artists producing some very spiritual and visceral work. Featured artist amongst the twenty is Catherine Claiborne, a long-time visitor to Aruba who owns timesharing with her husband at the Playa Linda. Catherine describes herself as an “emerging artist,” participating in a number of shows in the Boston area of the States. She expressed a strong interest in the island art and artists, which lead to her association with Alida and the materialization of this multi-cultural exposition. Her pen brush drawing, inspired by Aruba’s Divi-Divi trees dominates the entrance room of the gallery, boldly traveling from one paper to the next, breaking out of the confines of the single dimensions of the paper medium to sprawl over the wall, just as the trees do in nature. Catherine had this to say about her inspiration: “Life/nature: one without the other doesn’t exist. Both inspire my personal response to my femininity, spirituality, emotions and family...In essence, my process, my art is a personal journey of discovery and understanding myself in relation to life/nature.”

Appropriately, next to the Divi Tree of Ms. Claiborne is found the acrylic on canvas “Alpha/Omega” of local artist Gwendy Sneek, who also shares this philosophy, and shows a strong spirituality in all her work, which has been shown in Aruba and Brazil. Ms. Sneek’s installation is a pairing of canvases that takes the observer on a mysterious, mystical journey.

On the other side of the spectrum is the use of modern technology in the presentations of Aruban artist Ryan Oduber and Dutch artist Rob ter Haar. Computers, photography, and graphic programs are employed, and their work must be viewed on television. Manipulation of these modern medias have resulted in fascinating and mobile works, ever changing, that require the viewer to truly study what is happening on the screen. Ryan’s piece is a biting indictment of a violent world, while Rob’s may lull the viewer, creating an interesting contrast. Ryan also has on display what appears to be simply a slot machine, but on close examination, one will find a message about modern values therein. In this, their work very much typifies the Avant Garde, nothing is quite what it seems.

Other Aruban artists included in this exposition are Alida Martinez, Marisol Canizalez, Frans Lacle, Stan Kuiperi, Mo Mohamed, Adrian Rekkers, Maikel Ross, Nancy Fokeringa Croes, Marcello Werleman, Maria La Torre, Edmund Tujeehut, and Aura and Meryl Welming. A wall devoted to the photographs of Jacqueline van der Linde provide a macro view of nature, revealing textures and colors the eye often misses when looking at objects normally. Sulay Correa of Colombia and Nia Halima, of the U.S. are also included in this new collection. We found of particular interest the whimsical driftwood sculptures of Adrian Rekkers, and his very appealing zebra that inhabits the gallery’s courtyard could be male or female, depending on one’s viewpoint. In discussion, we found a man saw it as a rather well endowed male zebra, and our feminine point of view interpreted it as a pregnant zebra, that is, if it is a zebra at all.

This was the point of a number of lively discussions amongst those attending the opening, the message the artist was trying to convey and the context of their work in relation to this world, as most of the works do go beyond their physical presence to make a statement. This is the nature of Avant Garde work; challenging and thought provoking, and the works on display in the latest collection at the Insight Gallery in Paradera Park 215 are no exception. For the schedule of viewing hours, or to arrange a tour of the gallery, call Alida Martinez at telephone number 568-9168